

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 176635

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, BR

SUBJECT: LETTER TO THE SECRETARY FROM FOREIGN MINISTER
SILVEIRA

REF: STATE 168227

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF LETTER FROM FONMIN SILVEIRA TO
SECRETARY KISSINGER DELIVERED JULY 21.

2. BEGIN TEXT: DEAR HENRY, YESTERDAY I RECEIVED, FROM
AMBASSADOR CRIMMINS, YOUR LETTER ABOUT ROBINSON'S VISIT
AND THE NEGOTIATIONS FOR THE INTERNATIONAL COFFEE AGREE-
MENT. ON THE SAME OCCASION, I ALSO HAD THE PLEASANT
SURPRISE OF RECEIVING THE PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN AT OUR LAST
ENCOUNTER IN WASHINGTON, WHICH YOU WERE SO KIND TO SEND
ME, WITH SUCH A MEANINGFUL INSCRIPTION. I APPRECIATE YOUR
THOUGHTFULNESS AND THE CONFIRMATION OF THE ASSURANCE THAT
THE BONDS OF FRIENDSHIP WE HAVE ESTABLISHED BETWEEN US ARE
A SAFEGUARD AGAINST THE WEAKENING OF OUR REGARD FOR EACH
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OTHER, NOTWITHSTANDING HARDSHIPS AND THE DIFFICULT POSITION

WE HOLD, AS WELL AS THE FRANKNESS WITH WHICH WE HAVE OFTEN BEEN LED TO DEFEND OUR DIFFERING OR OPPOSING VIEWPOINTS. NOR DO SUCH BONDS OF FRIENDSHIP ALLOW US TO SLACKEN IN OUR DETERMINATION TO DEVELOP OUR BEST EFFORTS TOWARDS THE ACHIEVING OF GOOD UNDERSTANDING AND CLOSE COOPERATION

BETWEEN BRAZIL AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

3. CHARLES ROBINSON'S VISIT WAS VERY VALUABLE. I AM CONVINCED THAT THE SETTING UP OF A CONSULTATIVE GROUP ON ECONOMIC MATTERS WILL MAKE IT POSSIBLE TO ENDOW WITH A LASTING CHARACTER THE ADVANTAGES OF MEETINGS OF THIS TYPE, IN WHICH THERE PREVAILS THE ENDEAVOR TO ACHIEVE MUTUAL ENLIGHTENMENT, WITHOUT ANY PREOCCUPATION WITH FORMALITIES. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THESE CONSULTATIONS REMAIN PRECISELY THIS: AN INFORMAL FORUM FOR MUTUAL ENLIGHTENMENT, FOR THEY WOULD LOSE MUCH OF THEIR LACK OF CONSTRAINT AND USEFULNESS WERE WE TO INTRODUCE INTO THEM ANY CONCERN FOR NEGOTIATIONS.

4. THE INTERNATIONAL COFFEE AGREEMENT IS A GOOD CASE IN POINT. WHILE THE PREVIOUS AGREEMENT WAS IN EFFECT, THERE WERE REPEATED OCCASIONS WHEN SHORT-TERM INTERESTS - OFTEN CONTRARY TO THE BROADER OBJECTIVES OF THE AGREEMENT - PREVAILED AT THE NEGOTIATIONS PROPER, AT THE COUNCIL, AND AT THE BOARD. THIS HAPPENED BOTH AMONG THE PRODUCING AND THE CONSUMING COUNTRIES; NOR WERE OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS EXEMPT OF SUCH ATTITUDES. I THINK IT ONLY FAIR, THOUGH, TO RECOGNIZE THAT THERE PERSISTED, ON THE PART OF BRAZIL, AN UNDERLYING CURRENT OF LONG-TERM PREOCCUPATION WHICH INSPIRED SOME OF THE MORE FAR-REACHING DECISIONS OF THE COUNCIL.

5. I BRING UP THESE FACTS BECAUSE THEY ARE RELEVANT TO AN ACCURATE APPRECIATION OF THE BRAZILIAN STANCE IN REGARD TO THE PROBLEMS INVOLVING COMMODITIES.

6. I AM IN AGREEMENT WITH YOU IN THAT THERE IS NO SINGLE SOLUTION FOR THE COMMODITIES PROBLEM. I DO NOT THINK EITHER THAT THE SOLUTION LIES NECESSARILY IN THE CELEBRA-
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TION OF SPECIFIC AGREEMENTS, PRODUCT BY PRODUCT. OTHER APPROACHES TO THE PROBLEM MIGHT BE NECESSARY AND SHOULD BE TRIED. THUS, ALL THE MEASURES YOU SUGGEST, SUCH AS BETTER ACCESS TO THE MARKETS, INCREASED FINANCING FOR INVESTMENTS, ESTABLISHMENT OF BETTER MECHANISMS FOR THE STABILIZATION OF EXPORT REVENUES, INCENTIVES TO DIVERSIFICATION AND ENCOURAGEMENT OF EFFICIENCY AND PRODUCTIVITY, SHOULD ALL BE PART OF A STRATEGY TO SOLVE THE

PROBLEM. ON THE OTHER HAND, THEY DO NOT NECESSARILY CONSTITUTE ALTERNATIVES TO AGREEMENTS ON PRODUCTS.

7. THE POINT ON WHICH OUR WAY OF THINKING PERHAPS DOES NOT COINCIDE IS HOW TO INTEGRATE THOSE MEASURES INTO A COHERENT WHOLE. BASICALLY, I BELIEVE THAT THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES THINK IN TERMS OF A STRATEGY OF "DEFENSE"

AGAINST THE PRODUCING COUNTRIES; THENCE THEIR PREFERENCE FOR A PIECEMEAL APPROACH. WHEREAS WE OURSELVES SEE THE PROBLEM AS A COMMON AND GENERAL ONE AND BELIEVE THAT, AS SUCH, IT SHOULD BE DEALT WITH IN A GLOBAL FASHION.

8. ANOTHER DIFFERENCE LIES PERHAPS IN THE SLIGHTLY PATERNALISTIC PRESUMPTION THAT THERE SEEMS TO BE REFLECTED IN THE STANCE OF THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES. YOU YOURSELF MAKE REFERENCE TO THE UNITED STATES' DETERMINATION TO "SOLVE" THE PROBLEMS OF "BASIC PRODUCTS OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES". NOW, ALTHOUGH WE MAY RECOGNIZE THE CAPACITY OF THE UNITED STATES OR OF THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES TO SOLVE ANY PROBLEM RELATED TO THE SUPPLYING OF THEIR OWN NEEDS, WE DO NOT THINK THAT THE QUESTION CAN BE POSITED ONLY ON THE ECONOMIC LEVEL NOR THAT IT IS ALWAYS POSSIBLE TO PAY THE POLITICAL PRICE OF DECISIONS THAT AFFECT OTHER PEOPLES. FROM THIS STANDPOINT, WE BELIEVE THAT THE QUESTION THAT IMPOSES ITSELF IS NOT SO MUCH THAT OF SOLVING THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES' PROBLEMS OF BASIC PRODUCTS, BUT RATHER THAT OF SOLVING PRINCIPALLY IN THE WESTERN ECONOMIC UNIVERSE, THE OVERALL PROBLEM OF THE HARMONIOUS GROWTH OF ALL THE COUNTRIES, A HARMONIOUS GROWTH CAPABLE OF ENSURING AN INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER CONDUCTIVE TO PEACE. IN THIS SENSE, THE PROBLEM BELONGS TO ALL, NOT ONLY TO EITHER DEVELOPING OR DEVELOPED COUNTRIES.

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TRIES. I SEND YOU MY WARMEST REGARDS. SINCERELY,
ANTONIO. END TEXT.

9. PORTUGUESE TEXT FOLLOWS BY POUCH. KISSINGER

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